



**MARICOPA COUNTY  
Environmental Services**  
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[www.maricopa.gov/envsvc](http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc)

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## **ROOF RATS TEST NEGATIVE FOR DISEASES**

### ***County Board of Supervisors to Vote Monday on Increased Funding for Rat Control***

(Phoenix)— Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) reported today that the roof rat specimens provided by Maricopa County Vector Control (MCVC) tested negative for the diseases hantavirus, bubonic plague and tularemia. In response to the ongoing roof rat problem, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors called a special meeting Monday, February 25 to vote on extra funding for MCVC.

“Maricopa County is exploring all avenues for helping stem this problem,” says Board Chairman Don Stapley. “This proposed funding supplements Vector Control in the Environmental Services Department, which is leading our efforts to contain the roof rat infestation.”

MCVC collected three rats in east Phoenix Wednesday that all tested negative at the ADHS laboratory. The State lab also found no fleas on the rats. MCVC picked up two additional rats Thursday that will also be tested. Testing will be ongoing.

At the special meeting Monday, the Board will hear from the Environmental Services Department to approve an appropriation of up to \$68,726 to MCVC to mitigate the roof rat infestation in Maricopa County.

**WHO: MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**WHAT: SPECIAL MEETING TO VOTE ON FUNDING FOR RAT CONTROL**

**WHERE: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUDITORIUM  
205 WEST JEFFERSON (In front of the Central Court Bldg.)**

**WHEN: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2002  
10:00 A.M.**